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Forest Service

Federal Subsistence Board News Release Correction

For Immediate Release:
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Federal Subsistence Board changes subsistence black bear season in Unit 6D

The Federal Subsistence Board recently approved temporary wildlife special action request (WSA15-10) with modification to maintain the current black bear season dates of Sept. 1 to June 30 and to require the use of a Federal registration permit for black bears in Unit 6D during the entire season. This temporary change is effective from Sept. 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Temporary Special Action WSA15-10, submitted by the State of Alaska, requests the Federal black bear season be aligned with the State black bear season due to conservation concerns for the species. The proponent states that black bear harvest in Unit 6D tripled between the late 1990s and 2007, followed by sharp declines in harvest in regulatory years 2012/2014 and 2013/2014. In addition, sows have made up an increasing proportion of the harvest, increasing to over 40 percent in the last three regulatory years and exceeding State management objectives every year since 2006/2007. The temporary regulatory change for the Federal subsistence black bear season is necessary to assure the continued viability of the population as mandated under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

For more information on this action, contact Chris McKee at (907) 786-3572 or (800) 478-1456 paul_mckee@fws.gov.

Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

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